

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this Response, claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indications of claims 1 and 2 as being allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Office Action alleges that claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 recite the phrase "a prespecified method" which is unclear in regard to what method the claim is referring to. In response, applicants have amended claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 to clarify this particular claimed feature. The Office Action states that amending the claim in this manner will overcome the rejection, therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

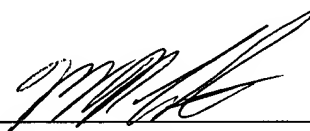
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to

conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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MRC/CJB:cb
2611-0114P

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Attachment(s)